

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1900 - SB 2567

February 9, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a fund to reimburse an educator who receives a qualifying score on a required assessment, and who receives a license to teach or an endorsement, in an amount equal to the cost of the assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,326,900/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-5-5605 requires all students desiring a license to teach to pass both a test that measures professional knowledge and a standardized or criterion-referenced test for each desired area of endorsement.
- It is estimated that an average of 3,300 new educators obtain an academic license in Tennessee through an educator preparation provider (EPP) pathway and 150 new educators obtain an occupational teaching license through a Tennessee pathway.
- The majority of academic licensure areas require two assessments: one content area assessment and one which measures pedagogy; occupational licensure areas require one assessment.
- These assessments cost approximately \$150 per administration. The total costs for new educator assessments are estimated to be \$1,012,500 annually $[(3,300 \times 2) \times \$150] + (\$150 \times 150)$.
- There are 1,600 applications for additional endorsement approved in Tennessee each year. Additional endorsements require that educators submit qualifying scores on required content assessments, which cost on average, \$150 per administration.
- It is estimated that assessments taken by applicants seeking additional endorsements will total \$240,000 annually $(1,600 \times \$150)$.
- Reimbursing qualified educators that receive a qualifying score on assessments, and who receive an endorsement or license to teach, will increase state expenditures \$1,252,500 in FY22-23 and subsequent years $(\$1,012,500 + \$240,000)$.
- DOE will require one Education Consultant 1 position beginning in FY22-23 to administer funds, ensure only qualified educators receive funding, obtain access to funds, and to effectively communicate benefits and processes of the program externally. Educators may seek initial licensure or additional endorsement throughout the year, so this program will need consistent administration and monitoring.

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- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$74,429 (\$57,888 salary + \$16,541 benefits) in FY22-23 subsequent years.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,326,929 in FY22-23 and subsequent years (\$1,252,500 + \$74,429).
- No impact to local government.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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